

Remarks:

In the last Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 1-8, 10-15, and 19-20 and rejected claims 16 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Jackson and under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Gryl. Applicant accepts the Examiner's allowance of claims 1-8, 10-15, and 19-20, and submits arguments for allowance of independent claim 16 and new claims 21 and 22.

With respect to the Examiner's rejection of claims 16 and 18 as being anticipated by Jackson, Applicant respectfully submits that Jackson is an improper prior art reference. In particular, Jackson is being applied as a §102(e) reference with an earliest effective filing date of November 16, 2000. The present application has a filing date of July 27, 2001, claiming priority to provisional application No. 60/221,234, filed July 27, 2000. Therefore, the present application's earliest priority date is July 27, 2000, which is before Jackson's earliest effective date as a reference.

Applicant submits that the provisional application supports and enables claims 16 and 18. In particular, Applicant draws the Examiner's attention to page 10 of the provisional application that clearly illustrates the interface module coupleable with the electronic equipment enclosure and including a first wire connector half and a second wire connector half. Applicant also notes that the drawing on page 10 of the provisional application is substantially similar to Fig. 3 of the present application.

With respect to the Examiner's rejection of claims 16 and 18 in view of Gryl, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 16 and new claims 21 and 22 are allowable over Gryl and any other prior art reference of record. In particular, Applicant submits that Gryl does not teach or suggest the claim limitation of *the interface module being coupleable with a pressurized housing portion of the electronic equipment enclosure*, as currently claimed in independent claim 16. Gryl merely discloses a coil module having a housing 31 within which are stored a plurality of coils 10 having lead wires 11,12 extending therefrom. Male and female connectors 42,43 are attached to the lead wires and are operable to couple with respective male and female connectors of a "transmission cable or other electrical circuitry." (Column 3, lines 39-40). The lead wires 11, 12 extend out from the housing 31 such that the connectors 42, 43 are positioned outside the housing 31.

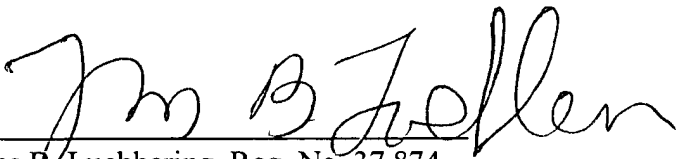
Gryl does not teach or suggest a module operable to couple with electronic equipment enclosed within a housing. Instead, Gryl only teaches or suggests the connectors 42,43 being connected to other cables or electrical circuitry. Additionally, Gryl does not teach or suggest a module operable to connect with a *pressurized* housing portion.

The present invention discloses the housing module and the interface module being positioned substantially proximate to each other. The housing module includes an opening, and the interface module includes a housing. The housing module is operable to store electronic equipment having a plurality of electrical wires secured thereto. The electrical wires extend through the opening in the housing module and into the housing of the interface module. Importantly, the electrical wires are always positioned within the housing module and/or the housing of the interface module. In order to connect the wires to the electronic equipment or circuitry, it is not necessary to position the wires outside the housing module and/or the housing of the interface module. Applicant submits new claims 21 and 22 that further define this feature of the present invention. In particular, both claims 21 and 22 recite that the first and second wire connector halves be stored within the housing of the interface module. As discussed above, this feature is not taught or suggested by Gryl, as the male and female connectors 42, 43 of Gryl are positioned outside the housing 31. The present invention provides the advantage that the connectors are protected within the housing and are not exposed to normal wear and tear from the elements and other damage associated with transportation, installation, etc.

Given that Gryl does not teach an interface module for coupling with a housing module having electronic equipment stored therein nor coupleable with a pressurized housing and further given that the first and second wire connector halves are not enclosed within any housing, Applicant respectfully submits that Gryl does not teach or suggest all of the claim limitations found in independent claims 16, 21, and 22. Remaining claim 18 not discussed is dependent on claim 16 and thus, should also be in a condition for allowance. In view of the remarks herein, Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance. In the event of further questions, the Examiner is urged to call the undersigned at 1-800-445-3460. Any additional fee which might be due in connection with this application should be applied against our Deposit Account No. 19-0522.

Respectfully submitted,

HOVEY WILLIAMS LLP

By 
Thomas B. Luebbering, Reg. No. 37,874
2405 Grand Boulevard, Suite 400
Kansas City, Missouri 64108
(816) 474-9050

(Docket No. 30646)